13th December 1961]

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : Sir, Question No. 2298 has not been answered.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister for Local Administration is not here.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : Sir, that question would have been included in to-day's list of questions only after consulting the Hon. Minister concerned.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister was expected to come here and answer this question but she could not come.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : This is gong too much. In other Assemblies and in the Parliament some other Minister or Deputy Minister would answer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will be answered soon after the Hon. Minister comes here.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : Sir, this is showing scant courtesy to the House.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Questions are over.

[NOTE.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by a member.]

II—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR SUPPLY OF RAILWAY WAGONS TO SALT MERCHANTS.

SRI N. S. RAMALINGAM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Home to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the heavy loss incurred by salt merchants due to non-supply of railway wagons and the need for arranging regular supply of wagons for early clearance of about 80,000 tons of salt from Agasthiyampalli Station Yard which would otherwise get damaged.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I wish to make the following observations :—

A telegram followed by a letter has been received from Sri B. Kuppuswami Pillai, Salt Merchant, Vedaranyam, requesting early supply of wagons for immediate clearance of salt from Agasthyampalli Station Yard. Both the letter and the telegram have been forwarded by Government in the Food and Agriculture Department to the General Manager, Southern Railway, for providing necessary wagon facilities to the salt merchants. 9-30 p.m.

The District Operating Superintendent (Goods) has been contacted over the phone and the position set out in the notice has been explained to him and he has been asked to make immediate arrangements for wagon supply for early clearance of salt from Agasthyampalli Station Yard.